

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079339
ORIGIN IO-14

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, IS, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY GENERAL'S APPEAL TO ARAFAT ON CEASE
FIRE

1. IN RESPONSE TO GUYER'S REQUEST FOR USG VIEWS ON THE
APPROPRIATENESS OF A SPECIFIC APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY
GENERAL TO ARAFAT TO OBSERVE THE CEASE FIRE (REPORTED
USUN SEPTTEL), YOU MAY CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION
PROVIDED THAT THIS IS DONE IN A FASHION WHICH WOULD NOT
APPEAR TO UNDULY CONTRIBUTE TO PLO STATUS OR PRESTIGE.
WE BELIEVE THIS COULD BE BEST HANDLED BY TYING A PUBLIC
STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ASKING ARAFAT TO OBSERVE
THE CEASE FIRE TO YESTERDAY'S GENERAL CALL FOR A CEASE
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FIRE. THUS, STATEMENT COULD NOTE THAT SYG'S APPEAL HAS
BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ARAFAT WITH THE REQUEST
THAT THE PLO, AS WELL AS OTHER PARTIES, OBSERVE THE CALL.

2. WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT UN INFORM ISRAELI MISSION
OF INTENDED ANNOUNCEMENT IN ADVANCE. THIS SHOULD BE DONE
IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE ISRAELI REACTION WHICH COULD

UNDO POSITIVE EFFECT OF GETTING ARAFAT'S AGREEMENT TO
OBSERVE CEASE FIRE.

3. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IN HIS STATEMENT SYG SHOULD REFER

IN AS DIRECT A FASHION AS POSSIBLE TO THE DESIRE OF THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE A GENERAL CEASE FIRE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EXPECTED ISRAELI REQUEST THAT WE
INTERCEDE WITH THE UN TO HEAD OFF A STATEMENT BY THE
SECRETARY GENERAL OR THAT WE CRITICIZE SUCH A STATEMENT
AS INAPPROPRIATE, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT FOLLOWING
POINTS BE MADE:

-- USG WILL NOT INTERPOSE ANY OBJECTION TO AN SYG APPEAL
TO PLO TO OBSERVE CEASE FIRE.

-- IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ARAFAT HAD INDICATED
THAT HE WOULD HONOR SUCH A CALL AND WE BELIEVE THAT PLO
AGREEMENT TO OBSERVE A CEASE FIRE IS ESSENTIAL TO END
THE BLOODSHED AND ENABLE UN FORCE TO FULFILL ITS FUNCTION.

-- SYG HAS ALREADY ISSUED A GENERAL CALL FOR A CEASE FIRE
AND OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT APPEAL TO ARAFAT WILL BE
IN THIS CONTEXT.

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-- WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO AVOID STEPS WHICH
WOULD ENHANCE PLO STATUS OR PRESTIGE AND WE TRUST UN
STATEMENT WILL BE DRAFTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF OUR CONCERN.

-- HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO END THE
SHOOTING AND IF AN APPEAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL, BASED
ON THE WISHES OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, TO ARAFAT
STANDS A CHANCE OF ACHIEVING THIS END, WE BELIEVE IT MUST
BE TRIED.

COOPER

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